and Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), who emerged as the lowest bidders' for receipt of support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund, have entered into an agreement with the office of the Administrator, USO Fund for the provision of 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs).

(b) and (c) Agreements have been signed on 30-09-2004 by the office of Administrator USO fund separately with BSNL and M/s RIL for providing Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in 24,794 and 21,459 villages respectively. As per the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement, these RCPs are to be provided by September, 2007.

(d) 48,301 villages were identified having population of more than 2,000 and where only a single village public telephone was working and there was no other Public Call facility like Public Call Office (PCO).

(e) The project is deemed to have commenced from the date of the agreement.

E-governance scheme for Madhya Pradesh

†2244. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status of Madhya Pradesh is worse than the other States in the field of Information Technology development;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives being given and the assistance being made available by Government to Madhya Pradesh for promotion of e-governance; and

(d) the position of Madhya Pradesh in the field of Information Technology development as per the India E-Readiness Assignment Report, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a), (b) and (d) Government has carried out an e-Readiness Assessment of States/Union Territories (UTs) and its finding are published in a report entitled, 'India: E-Readiness Assessment Report 2003'. In this Report, States have been classified into six categories- Leaders, Aspiring

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Leaders, Expectants, Average Achievers, Below Average Achievers and Least Achievers. State of Madhya Pradesh has been categorized under the 'Average Achiever'.

(c) Department of Information Technology (DIT) through National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to the Central Government Departments, States, UTs and district Administrations in the country. As part of its Objectives, it is also providing above e-governance support to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

NIC has provided NICNET connectivity and/or computerisation support at following locations in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

- Vidhan Sabha
- State Govt. Secretariat
- 43 Districts in Madhya Pradesh
- High Court, Jabalpur and its benches at Gwalior and Indore
- Regional Passport Office, Bhopal
- Registrar of Companies, Gwalior
- Office of the Commissioner, Land Records, Gwalior
- Office of Div. Commissioner, Excise and Customs, Indore
- State Planning Board
- Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounts
- Seventh All India School Education Survey
- Agricultural Census Data and Minor Irrigation Census Data

NIC has also implemented a number or e-governance initiatives, including the following in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

(1) Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring of 11 Point Programme relating to rural administration, Bhopal gas victims and their related claims, public health engineering department, Parliamentary and Assembly Elections.

(2) GIS-based Facility Management Information System for e-Gram Suvidha, decision support system for planning for road connectivity under

Gram Sadak Yojana, Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Management Plan for Omkareshwar and Indira Sagar projects for NVDA.

(3) Networking of Mandis under Agmarknet Projects and Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad.

(4) Rural Intranet for Gyandoot.

(5) Development and Maintenance of Portal web site for M.P.

(6) Electronic Registration Application for the O.0 Inspector General, Stamps and Registrations.

In addition to the above, as part of e-Governance, DIT is providing technical and financial support for implementation of following initiatives:

(1) Video conferencing facility has been extended to all the districts of Madhya Pradesh and also in the office of Chief Minister.

(2) Land Record Computerisation in various States of the country. The project has been taken up in Madhya Pradesh with an outlay of Rs. 140 lakhs.

(3) Rural ICT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) have been set up at two locations in Madhya Pradesh, *viz.* Ujjain and Chitrakoot to provide information to local villagers on health, agriculture, education, self-help groups, practical farming, women and child development, etc.

(4) Multimedia software has been developed for 18 crops mainly grown in Madhya Pradesh in both Hindi and English for the benefit of farmers at Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (JNKVV), Jabalpur.

Release of telephone Connections in Bihar

†2245. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants for telephone connections in Bihar have not been provided with the connections even after three years since they deposited the security amount in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.